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P. Delonkel  
03/04/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Wei William Wu et al.

Application No.: 09/874,098

Filed: June 4, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO  
FACILITATE INDEPENDENT  
PROTECTION SWITCHING IN A  
DISTRIBUTED NETWORK

Examiner: Sam, Phirin

Art Unit: 2661

Confirmation No.: 6034

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Technology Center 2600

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

In response to the Office Action dated November 25, 2003, Applicants respectfully request consideration of the remarks that follow.